

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The following paragraph is to be added to the specification directly after the title:

--This application is a 371 of PCT/JP04/15580 filed 10/21/2004 which claims priority to JP 2003-364175 filed 10/24/2003.--

Please replace the abstract with the following:

--A polyacetal resin composition comprising (A) 100 parts by mass of polyacetal resin generating formaldehyde in an amount of not more than 100 ppm when heated at a temperature of 200°C for 50 minutes under the nitrogen atmosphere and (B) 0.01 to 5 parts by mass of a hydrazide compound can provide an article which is remarkably reduced in an emission amount of formaldehyde even though molded either at a higher temperature or under molding conditions wherein the resin temperature rises partially.

Therefore, the polyacetal resin composition can be molded according to various molding methods and under a wide range of molding conditions. The article molded from the resin composition has succeeded in reducing the emission amount of formaldehyde, measured according to VDA275 method, to not more than 1 mg/kg, the level never achieved before, and therefore is usable for various applications where a reduced VOC is required.--

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 12, 13, and 15-23 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed polyacetal resin and hydrazide compound represented by formula (3) provide unexpected results with respect to the amount of formaldehyde released from the resin composition or an article thereof, which overcomes the obviousness rejection.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Uselding whose telephone number is (571)270-

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5463. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00am-4:30pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Milton I. Cano/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/JU/
Examiner
Art Unit 1796